

SAN SABA NEWS.

"If we shall at all times be thankful for communication from abroad, provided they are to the point, intelligently written and contain no personalities."

**PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY BY
I. T. BIGGS,
SAN SABA, TEXAS.**

Rates of Subscription:
(PAYABLE IN ADVANCE)
One copy, one year, \$1.25
Six months, .75
Three months, .50

Saturday Morning, Feb. 10, 1883.

The inaugural ball was a grand affair.

Marsh T. Polk's deficit is exactly \$202,427.25.

San Antonio is afflicted with a small pox epidemic.

Many of the older states have made gambling a felony.

Georgia proposes to have a new State House, to cost not less than a million of dollars.

Many cattle in the western portion of Fayette county are dying of a disease like the black leg.

The meeting of the Colorado Stock association, called for February 1, has been postponed until February 22.

State treasurer Lubbock has asked the appointment of a committee to count the money in his safe and examine his books.

There is a very general endorsement throughout the state of the governor's proposition to have a state reformatory for youthful criminals.

A Nebraska justice of the peace fined his own son \$15 for contempt of court, but the boy, not being able to pay it, and the father having only sixty-five cents about him, the fine was remitted and the paternal bond substituted.

There is a good deal of cotton yet in the hands of Texas planters and farmers in Texas, many of whom are holding for higher prices. A leading New York cotton broker gives it as his opinion that cotton will be higher.

A man named John S. Martin, one of the gang of land forgers connected with Ham, jumped his bond for \$2500 in 1873 and has avoided the clutches of the law ever since, until within a few days, when he was arrested and lodged in the Travis county jail.

Gov. Ireland's refusal to offer a reward for the arrest of Coleman, the bank swindler arrested in New York, on the ground that wealthy persons were interested in the arrest, able to pay a reward, is a new departure. Heretofore poor devils were the ones who could not get rewards offered.

Frank James was acquitted last week of the two charges of murder and robbery originally charged against him, but was immediately arrested on another charge of highway robbery. The prosecution says it will take James a long time to regain his liberty even though he should be acquitted of every charge.

Our exports of cotton exceed those of the previous crop year up to one week ago by 730,000 bales, though the receipts at Atlantic ports are only about half a million bales greater. The crop has been marketed so fast that the stock on hand is 300,000 bales less than at this time in 1882, while the world's visible supply is somewhat larger.

A woman who has been in the Georgia penitentiary for eighteen years on a life sentence is to be released by Gov. Aleck Stephens. He would pardon her if he knew what to pardon, but the fact is that nobody knows what she is in there for. There is no record of her misdoings on the prison register and the woman herself does not know why she is imprisoned.

The report of the commissioner of the general land office shows that, including Greer county, the right to which is in dispute, the liabilities of the state, on account of certificates issued, is \$7,814,035 in excess of the public domain. The horse having been abstracted therefrom the legislature now proposes to shut the stable door.—*Ex. Worth Gazette.*

Another constitutional convention is now called for at Austin. The knowing ones all agree that another and better constitution is needed. The fact is, most anything would be an improvement on the present document which is wrongly denominated a constitution. The way to get a good constitution is to elect the right sort of men to the constitutional convention.—*Ex.*

It is stated that the Republican caucus agreed to make Louisiana sugar and Texas wool pay the cost of half the tariff reduction. So far as Texas would be concerned such a step will be a magnificent failure. Texas and western wool can only be reached after the wool of more closely settled localities. They can pay fast and loose with the wool raisers of the United States, and we can pay our proportion but we are happy to say we can stand more than twice of this program.—*Wool Grower.*

Leasing the School Lands.

The senate committee on lands, last Tuesday, agreed on a bill to lease the school lands. In view of the fact that this is an important subject, we give the full text of the bill reported:

"An act to provide for leasing the common school lands of the state of Texas."

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas, That the state board of education shall have the power, and it shall be its duty to lease the surveyed sections of land belonging to the common school fund of the state, that may not be at the time sold, for not less than 3 cents per acre, and for terms not exceeding ten years.

SECTION 2. Lands chiefly valuable for timber shall not be leased. The rental shall be paid annually in advance. The said board shall have power to make such rules and regulations, and employ such assistance, as may be necessary to efficiently execute the powers and duties herein imposed on it. Agricultural lands shall be leased with a reservation that they may be sold and delivered at any time.

The above is the bill as reported on by the committee. There can be no question that a bill, either this one or its or one similar to it, should become a law, and that, too, as speedily as possible. The school fund is losing a vast deal of revenue because of the non-existence of such a law. A lease bill should be passed, and then another should be enacted, prohibiting, under severe penalties, the use of public or private lands for even grazing purposes without the consent of the owner. This thing of making fortunes out of grass that does not belong to the user should be carefully looked after and guarded against.—*Ex.*

Attorney General Templeton has delivered his first opinion on a question arising upon land matters. He takes the ground that the treasurer had no right to refuse to receive money for lands in which the applicant had acquired vested rights under the law by which these had been appraised and put on the market. The treasurer refused to accept the money on the strength of a note from the commissioner of the general land office that he had been notified of alleged frauds connected with these lands, and asking the treasurer not to receive any money for school lands in Wheeler county. The attorney general holds that the commissioner could not withhold these lands from market, so as to affect parties who had already made applications, and that the treasurer could not, on this ground, also refuse to receive the money at the time it was offered. Going further, the attorney general holds that the commissioner of the general land office has no authority to suspend the sale of these lands at all. The treasurer received the money last Friday, and issued receipts for \$3,990, this being the one-twentieth of the value of the lands, as required by law to be paid in advance.—*Ex. Worth Gazette.*

The speech of Senator Terrell, delivered in the senate on Friday of last week, on the Sunday law, deserves more than a passing report in the proceedings of that body. Said he: "Sunday laws are but entering wedges to make the government a religious, instead of a social and political institution. If those who advocate Sunday laws do so because they wish to declare by law what day of the week is the Sabbath of God, I answer, you have no right to state so vexed a religious question by civil laws. If I am told that this law must be passed to compel me to observe a day of rest, then I answer, you have no right to prescribe by law what I shall eat and drink, the shape of my wearing apparel, or how many hours in the week I shall sleep. Such laws are entering wedges to trammel the conscience, and if not checked will sooner or later, and by invading your household, governing your social life, and prescribing the form of your devotions."

After shearing, when the wool is short and clean, is the best time to brand sheep. Lampblack, mixed with turpentine and enough lard, oil to make it fast, will do as well as anything, and can be painted on with a small ash brush. One, two or three bars across the back or rump, any simple, character or letter, differing from those adopted by neighbors, will do. Warm tar mixed with lampblack and put on with an ordinary branding iron, is a more lasting brand, but being too fast and hard to scour out, is objected to by manufacturers, and might make a difference in the value of the wool.—*Wool Grower.*

The movement to hold a centennial cotton exposition has assumed shape at last. A bill relating thereto passed both houses of congress last week. This will place the matter on a proper and assured basis, and as its location will be decided in thirty days, will cause prompt and energetic action upon the part of those cities which determine to bid. From the nature of the bill it would seem that the proposed exposition has assumed an international character, and in point of magnitude may compare with the Philadelphia centennial of 1876.—*Wool Grower.*

The star route trial still drags its weary length along, and from present prospects may continue to do so interminably. The lawyers can stand it if the government can.

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